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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/824,126

04/14/2004

Gian De Belder

CM2737M

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05/23/2008

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EXAMINER

WEBB, GREGORY E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1796

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment/Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/19/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The applicant argues the claims require two fragrances where as the prior art only requires one fragrance.
3. It is the applicant contention that one skilled in the art of cleaning would never add an additional fragrance composition for cleaning a toilet bowl.
4. In essence having one fragrance is anticipated but no one would ever think to use two fragrances.
5. People of ordinary skill in cleaning are well aware of using multiple fragrances. This is not considered beyond the knowledge of chemist or formulators.
6. The applicant admits that the single element was known at the time of invention. The examiner argues that as this single element was known at the time of invention, one skilled in the art could have combined elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions. The combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention.
7. Adding an additional fragrance to a known device is not considered by this examiner to rise to the hurdle of non-obvious. Nor has the applicant provided any evidence that would suggest anything unexpected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard et al (US 6,178,564) and further in view of Leonard et al (US 6,662,380) and further in view of Purzycki (US 4,666,671).

Art Unit: 1796

5. Leonard'564 teaches a liquid dispenser for dispensing a liquid from the rim of a toilet bowl in a controlled and consistent manner. Figure 1 clearly shows the support structure, the dispensing means, rim attachment means, and the container holding a liquid.

6. Specifically concerning the dispensing means and the attachment means, Leonard'564 teaches the following:

“In a preferred form of the second version of the invention, the liquid dispenser is suitable for dispensing a liquid from the rim of a toilet bowl. In this form, the suspension means comprise a suspension hook and a guide channel integral with the base. The suspension hook has an upper end hook portion that is placed over the toilet rim and a lower end that is slidably inserted in the guide channel such that the lower end of the suspension hook engages an inner surface of the guide channel thereby suspending the base and the bottle under or adjacent the toilet rim. In this preferred form, the dispensing plate is suitable to be upwardly inclined with respect to an inner surface of the toilet bowl when the liquid dispenser is installed on the rim of the toilet bowl, and the lower plate is also suitable to be upwardly inclined with respect to an inner surface of the toilet bowl when the liquid dispenser is installed on the rim of the toilet bowl. The spacing between the upper surface of the dispensing plate and the lower plate of the base varies along the length of the dispensing plate such that a first spacing between the edge of the lower plate nearest the inner surface of the toilet bowl and the edge of the dispensing plate nearest the inner surface of the toilet bowl is less than a second spacing between the edge of the lower plate furthest from the inner surface of the toilet bowl and the edge of the dispensing plate furthest from the inner surface of the toilet bowl. The dispensing plate may also include a deflector secured to an edge of the dispensing plate. The deflector is dimensioned so as to be suitable to contact an inner surface of the toilet bowl when the liquid dispenser is installed on the rim of the toilet bowl. When the toilet is flushed, a portion of the flushing water contacts a dispensing position on the upper surface of the dispensing plate thereby washing the liquid into the flush water.” (*emphasis added*)

Concerning the fragrance and the flush water and means of dispensing, Leonard'564 teaches the following:

The use of the capillary dispensing method implemented by the liquid dispenser 10 in accordance with the invention provides for delivery of a

linear and consistent amount of liquid formula to the flush water. One embodiment of the liquid dispenser is designed to last between 300 and 450 flushes, providing consistent foaming, cleaning, disinfecting and fragrancng at each flush, from the first flush to the last flush. It has been discovered that the use of capillary channels on the dispensing plate is very significant in delivering a steady level of fragrance between flushes as the surface area for the capillary channels insures that adequate fragrance is delivered to the atmosphere after each flush. (*emphasis added*)

Concerning the plastic material, Leonard'564 teaches the following:

At the bottom of the base 24, there is a liquid dispensing plate 40 that assists in distribution of the liquid formula into the flush water. The dispensing plate 40 may be a separate component that is attached to the base or may be formed integral with the base 24. The dispensing plate 40 is preferably formed from a non-porous **thermoplastic material** such as pigmented **polyethylene** or **polypropylene**. (*emphasis added*)

7. Leonard'564 fails to teach a liquid dispensing system in combination with a fragranced gel type fragrance dispensing system.
8. Although Leonard does not teach the combination of features, such features were known at the time of the instant invention.
9. In Leonard'380, a dual system exists where both a liquid and solid are dispensed into the flush water (see abstract). Leonard'380 further teaches the wicking delivery system the rim attachment.
10. Leonard teaches various material that may be used in forming the solid dissolvable cleaning product including bleaching agents, gelling agents. Leonard further addresses the need for a device that can dispense quantities of cleaning and freshening liquid both during and after a flush (see col. 2, lines 22-40).
11. The two Leonard references fail to teach the specific gel state and the use of terpenes as a fragrance.

Art Unit: 1796

12. Purzycki also teaches rim blocks and specifically teaches gelled solid blocks.

Purzycki also teaches the use of terpenes as a common fragrance as well as dispensing the fragrance during flushes.

Concerning the lavatory bowl, toilet bowl rim and the fragrance, Purzycki teaches the following:

The **solid gel urinal and toilet bowl rim blocks** of this invention have several advantages over the sublimable blocks or the molded surfactant blocks described in the prior art. The gels of this invention can perform for up to thirty days or longer continuously emitting a pleasant fragrance while at the same time releasing other active ingredients into the toilet bowl or urinal. Another advantage is that the fragrance used need not be overwhelming in order to cover over undesirable odors due to volatile materials such as para-dichlorobenzene. The fragrance used can provide a delicate and pleasant odor more suitable and desirable for the lavatory or bathroom. A third advantage is that the release of the fragrance and the other active ingredients is controlled and quite linear over about thirty days and there is no rapid decline of effectiveness with time. (*emphasis added*)

Concerning the terpene, Purzycki teaches the following:

The fragrance in the gel of this invention can be **any conventional commercially available perfume oil**. These are complex mixtures of volatile compounds including: esters, ethers, aldehydes, alcohols, unsaturated hydrocarbons, **terpenes** and other ingredients which are well known to those skilled in the art of perfumery. Their use as to type and proportion is limited only by their compatibility and preference in the gel matrix. It is one of the advantages of this invention that a wide variety of fragrance components are compatible with the gel system and one can choose from a wide variety of fragrances. (*emphasis added*)

Concerning the flush water, Purzycki teaches the following:

A preferred container for toilet bowls will **divert a portion of the flush water and allow a portion to come in contact with the gel**. There should also be provision for the active ingredients to escape. The container can be manufactured out of any suitable material and should provide a holding device which positions the container under the rim in the stream of flushing water. (*emphasis added*)

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory E. Webb whose telephone number is 571-272-1325. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-17:30 (m-f).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory E. Webb/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

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